Highlights

MARRIAGES:

Total Marriages In 1988, the number of marriages occurring in Pennsylvania was 87,963, an increase of 745 marriages or 0.9 percent from the 87,218 that occurred in 1987. This increase reverses the downward trend in the annual number of marriages that had been occurring in the state since 1985. The 1988 marriage rate was 7.3 per 1,000 population, the same as for 1987 and the lowest marriage rate for the state since 1966. Pennsylvania's marriage rate has also been consistently lower than that recorded for the United States over the years 1950 - 1988.

Age of Bride The largest proportion of brides continued to be in the age group 20-24, accounting for 34.3 percent of all marriages in 1988. However, compared to 1970, the number of marriages in 1988 for women under 25 years of age has decreased by 48.8 percent while the number for women 25-39 years of age has increased by 167.5 percent. The largest increase among the age groups occurred to women 30-34 years of age; the number of marriages in 1988 reported for that age group was 237.0 percent higher than in 1970.

Age of Groom Age at the time of marriage for grooms followed a pattern similar to that of the brides, with the numbers and rates rising dramatically over the years for those 25 years of age and over and declining significantly for those under 25 years of age. In fact, the number and rate of marriages in 1988 among males 25-29 years of age was higher than the corresponding figures for those 20-24, the age group which has traditionally held the distinction of having the highest figures among all the age groups.

Marriage Rate by Age The 1988 marriage rate for brides under 20 years of age was more than three times that for the grooms. However, for the age group 50 and older, the grooms' marriage rate was more than twice the brides' rate.

Previous Marital Status Age 20-24 was the most common age group for first marriages for women. However, among the men being married for the first time, age 25-29 was the most common age group. The median ages of brides and grooms being married for the first time were 24.5 and 26.6, respectively.

For 72.7 percent of the brides and 71.9 percent of the grooms, the marriage occurring in Pennsylvania was a first marriage. In 1970, 84.0 percent of the brides were being married for the first time and 83.1 percent of the grooms. Approximately 4.0 percent of the women and the men marrying in 1988 had had two or more prior marriages. The median age of brides who had been previously married was 35.4; for grooms previously married, the median age was 38.9.

For persons previously widowed, 58.1 percent of the women and 79.1 percent of the men were age 50 and older at the time of their remarriage. Among those previously divorced, the median age for women being remarried was 34.5; for men, it was 37.8.

Age of Bride and Groom In 17.3 percent of all marriages, both the bride and the groom were in the age group 20-24. The second most common combination was both the bride and the groom 25-29 years of age -- 14.3 percent of all marriages. In 12.6 percent of the marriages, the bride was 20-24 and the groom 25-29 years of age -- the third most common combination.

Residence Most of the brides (92.7 percent) and grooms (89.1 percent) who were married in Pennsylvania in 1988 were also residents of Pennsylvania.

Marriages by Month October was the most popular month for marriages in 1988 with 10,825 marriages occurring in Pennsylvania, followed closely by June (10,492), September (10,128), and May (10,031). The least popular month was January when only 2,899 marriages took place.

DIVORCES:

Total Divorces In 1988, the total number of divorces and annulments occurring in Pennsylvania was 39,001. This represents a slight increase of 164 or 0.4 percent compared to the 1987 figure of 38,837. The rate was 3.2 per 1,000 population, only a slight decrease from the rate of 3.3 in 1987 but still the lowest annual divorce rate recorded for the state since 1980 when it was 2.9. Pennsylvania's divorce rate has been consistently lower than the rate for the United States over the years 1950 - 1988.

Duration of Marriage Over 52 percent of all divorces and annulments occurred in marriages of nine years duration or less in 1988. Marriages of three, four, five and six years duration had the highest numbers of divorces and annulments. Exactly 17.0 percent of the divorces and annulments during 1988 occurred in marriages of 20 years duration or longer.

NOTE: Caution is advised when analyzing marriage and divorce statistics which are based on the number of events occurring in a county and may or may not reflect the county of residence of either party. See the *Reliability of Rates* section of the *Technical Notes* in the back of this report for more discussion of these rates.

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TABLE E-1
MARRIAGES, NUMBER AND RATE*:
PENNSYLVANIA AND UNITED STATES OCCURRENCES, 1950-1988

YEAR	PENNSYLVANIA NUMBER	PENNSYLVANIA RATE	UNITED STATES NUMBER	UNITED STATES RATE	YEAR	PENNSYLVANIA NUMBER	PENNSYLVANIA RATE	UNITED STATES NUMBER	UNITED STATES RATE
1988	87,963	7.3	2,389,000**	9.7	1968	91,947	7.8	2,069,000	10.4
1987	87,218	7.3	2,421,000**	9.9	1967	85,508	7.3	1,927,000	9.7
1986	87,558	7.4	2,407,099	10.0	1966	81,337	7.0	1,857,000	9.5
1985	89,139	7.5	2,412,625	10.1	1965	80,187	7.0	1,800,000	9.3
1984	91,610	7.7	2,477,192	10.5	1964	76,660	6.7	1,725,000	9.0
1983	92,095	7.7	2,445,604	10.5	1963	72,024	6.3	1,654,000	8.8
1982	93,350	7.9	2,456,278	10.6	1962	68,916	6.1	1,577,000	8.5
1981	92,644	7.8	2,422,145	10.6	1961	69,617	6.1	1,548,000	8.5
1980	93,673	7.9	2,390,252	10.6	1960	71,835	6.3	1,523,000	8.5
1979	93,677	8.0	2,331,337	10.4	1959	71,719	6.3	1,494,000	8.5
1978	92,682	7.9	2,282,272	10.3	1958	67,203	6.1	1,451,000	8.4
1977	90,842	7.7	2,178,367	9.9	1957	75,208	6.7	1,518,000	8.9
1976	90,442	7.6	2,154,807	9.9	1956	77,682	7.0	1,585,000	9.5
1975	91,665	7.7	2,152,662	10.0	1955	77,543	7.0	1,531,000	9.3
1974	96,663	8.2	2,229,667	10.5	1954	72,934	6.7	1,490,000	9.2
1973	101,076	8.5	2,284,108	10.8	1953	80,316	7.4	1,546,000	9.8
1972	98,496	8.3	2,282,154	10.9	1952	78,946	7.4	1,539,318	9.9
1971	94,663	8.0	2,190,481	10.6	1951	84,878	8.0	1,594,694	10.4
1970	94,516	8.0	2,158,802	10.6	1950	89,669	8.5	1,667,231	11.1
1969	94,861	8.0	2,145,000	10.6					

* RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.
**PROVISIONAL DATA.

FIGURE E-1
MARRIAGE RATES
PENNSYLVANIA AND UNITED STATES, 1950-1988

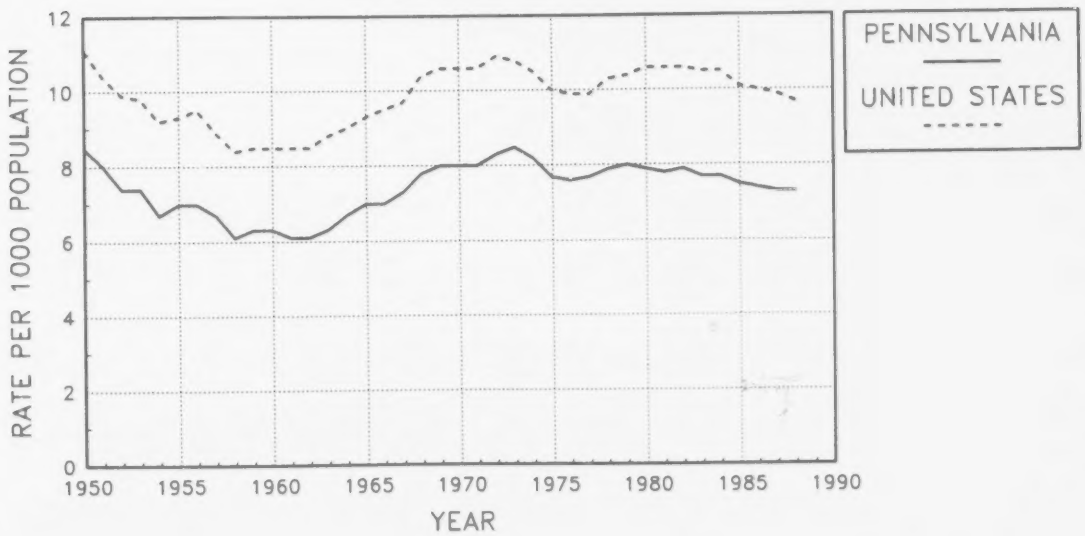


TABLE E-2
MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE, NUMBER AND RATE*:
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988, 1980, 1975, AND 1970

AGE OF BRIDE (IN YEARS)	1988		1980		1975		1970	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
ALL AGES	87,963	14.1	93,673	15.2	91,665	14.9	94,516	20.7
UNDER 20	6,165	14.0	14,330	26.8	21,207	37.4	22,323	41.5
20-24**	30,197	64.9	41,886	78.0	41,769	78.7	48,631	106.4
25-29	24,418	49.6	19,150	40.2	13,597	30.1	10,265	28.3
30-34	12,025	23.9	7,813	18.1	5,076	14.2	3,568	11.3
35-39	6,382	14.0	3,640	10.4	2,681	8.6	2,174	6.7
40-44	3,598	9.1	2,095	6.8	1,860	5.8	2,021	5.2
45-49	2,084	6.3	1,426	4.6	1,717	4.6	1,714	4.2
50 & OVER	3,094	1.5	3,333	1.7	3,758	2.0	3,820	2.1

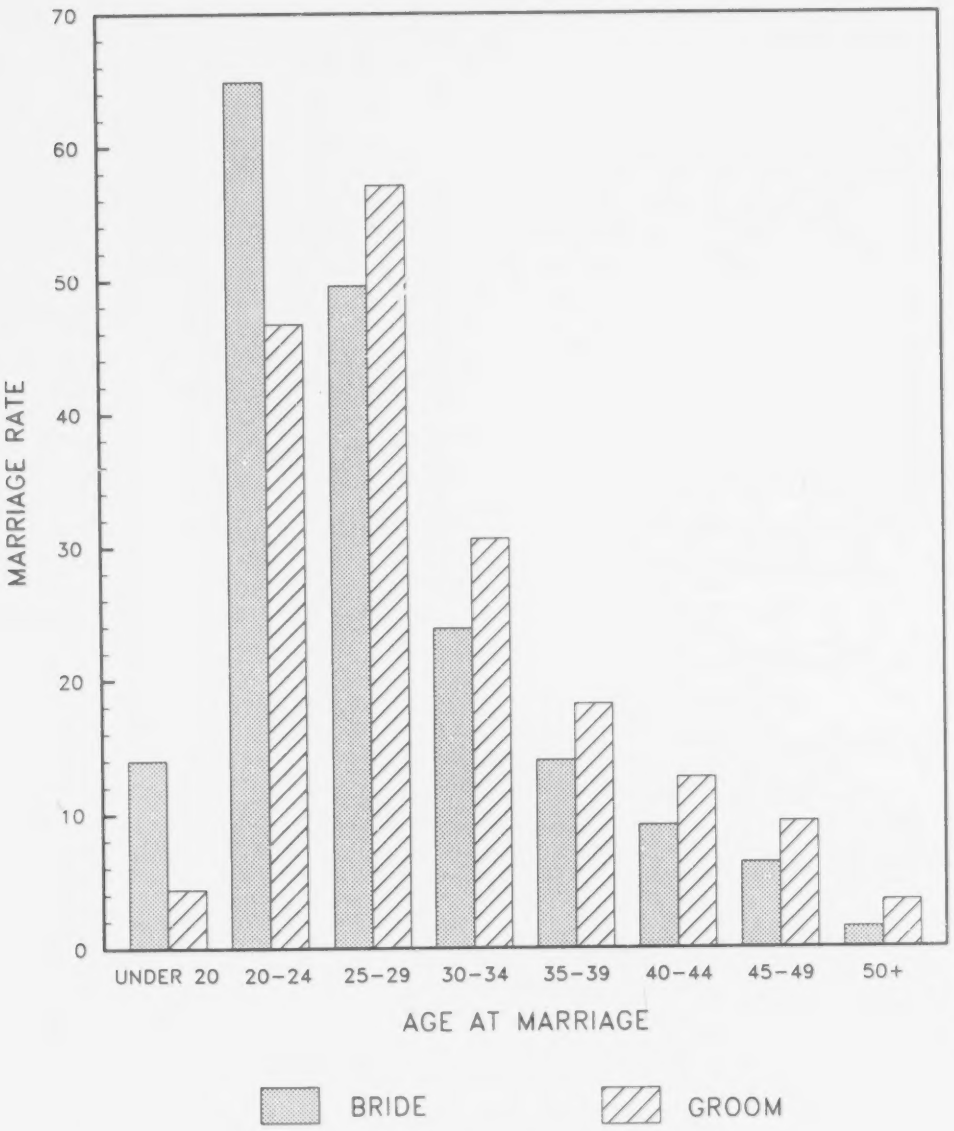
* RATE PER 1,000 FEMALE POPULATION.
**BRIDES WITH UNKNOWN AGE ARE INCLUDED IN THE 20-24 YEAR AGE GROUP.

TABLE E-3
MARRIAGES BY AGE OF GROOM, NUMBER AND RATE*:
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988, 1980, 1975, AND 1970

AGE OF GROOM (IN YEARS)	1988		1980		1975		1970	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
ALL AGES	87,963	15.3	93,673	16.5	91,665	16.2	94,516	23.4
UNDER 20	2,001	4.4	4,893	9.0	8,269	14.1	9,083	16.9
20-24	22,320	46.7	36,931	70.6	41,079	77.7	48,757	123.4
25-29**	27,927	57.1	25,582	54.6	21,027	54.3	18,083	52.7
30-34	14,913	30.6	10,995	26.4	7,391	22.0	5,735	19.5
35-39	7,939	18.2	5,028	15.2	3,664	12.8	3,055	10.2
40-44	4,780	12.7	2,952	10.4	2,559	8.7	2,464	6.9
45-49	2,876	9.4	2,013	7.0	2,171	6.3	2,052	5.5
50 & OVER	5,207	3.5	5,279	3.4	5,505	3.7	5,287	3.6

* RATE PER 1,000 MALE POPULATION.
**GROOMS WITH UNKNOWN AGE ARE INCLUDED IN THE 25-29 YEAR AGE GROUP FOR 1988, AND IN THE 20-24 YEAR AGE GROUP FOR ALL OTHER YEARS.

FIGURE E-2
MARRIAGE RATES BY AGE OF BRIDE AND AGE OF GROOM
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988



NOTE: MARRIAGE RATE OF BRIDE PER 1,000 FEMALE POPULATION FOR EACH AGE GROUP.
MARRIAGE RATE OF GROOM PER 1,000 MALE POPULATION FOR EACH AGE GROUP.

TABLE E-4
PRIOR MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

AGE OF BRIDE (IN YEARS)	ALL MARRIAGES*	FIRST MARRIAGE	PRIOR MARRIAGES			
			ONE	TWO	THREE OR MORE	UNKNOWN
ALL AGES	87,963	63,916	20,528	3,019	435	65
UNDER 15	7	7	0	0	0	0
15-19	6,158	6,133	24	1	0	0
20-24	30,077	28,767	1,281	27	0	2
25-29	24,418	19,770	4,391	236	10	11
30-34	12,025	6,363	4,992	606	49	15
35-39	6,382	1,799	3,750	715	111	7
40-44	3,598	554	2,358	578	98	10
45-49	2,084	203	1,445	352	75	9
50 & OVER	3,094	241	2,253	498	92	10
UNKNOWN	120	79	34	6	0	1

* TOTAL INCLUDES RECORDS WHICH DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER THIS WAS A FIRST OR REMARRIAGE.

TABLE E-5
PRIOR MARRIAGES BY AGE OF GROOM
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

AGE OF GROOM (IN YEARS)	ALL MARRIAGES*	FIRST MARRIAGE	PRIOR MARRIAGES			
			ONE	TWO	THREE OR MORE	UNKNOWN
ALL AGES	87,963	63,255	21,103	3,101	438	66
UNDER 15	4	3	1	0	0	0
15-19	1,997	1,992	5	0	0	0
20-24	22,320	21,853	455	8	2	2
25-29	27,810	24,871	2,852	78	1	8
30-34	14,913	9,809	4,674	390	28	12
35-39	7,939	3,048	4,174	637	72	8
40-44	4,780	861	3,145	663	100	11
45-49	2,876	306	1,972	498	92	8
50 & OVER	5,207	439	3,793	817	143	15
UNKNOWN	117	73	32	10	0	2

* TOTAL INCLUDES RECORDS WHICH DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER THIS WAS A FIRST OR REMARRIAGE.

TABLE E-6
PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS BY AGE OF BRIDE AND AGE OF GROOM
- PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

AGE GROUP (IN YEARS)	ALL MARRIAGES*		NEVER MARRIED		WIDOWED		DIVORCED	
	BRIDES	GROOMS	BRIDES	GROOMS	BRIDES	GROOMS	BRIDES	GROOMS
ALL AGES	87,963	87,963	63,916	63,255	2,618	2,543	21,364	22,088
UNDER 20	6,165	2,001	6,140	1,995	1	0	24	6
20-24	30,077	22,320	28,767	21,853	28	5	1,275	459
25-29	24,418	27,810	19,770	24,871	121	26	4,520	2,899
30-34	12,025	14,913	6,363	9,809	196	71	5,450	5,025
35-39	6,382	7,939	1,799	3,048	219	120	4,350	4,761
40-44	3,598	4,780	554	861	254	140	2,785	3,768
45-49	2,084	2,876	203	306	273	145	1,601	2,413
50-59	1,760	2,879	165	278	531	534	1,061	2,058
60-69	928	1,553	57	125	646	824	220	596
70+	406	775	19	36	343	654	43	83
UNKNOWN	120	117	79	73	6	24	35	20

* TOTAL INCLUDES UNKNOWN PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS.

TABLE E-7
ALL MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE AND AGE OF GROOM
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

AGE OF GROOM (IN YEARS)	ALL AGES	AGE OF BRIDE (IN YEARS)										
		UNDER 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60-69	70+	UNKNOWN
ALL AGES	87,963	6,165	30,077	24,418	12,025	6,382	3,598	2,084	1,760	928	406	120
UNDER 20	2,001	1,380	537	61	10	7	0	2	0	0	1	3
20-24	22,320	3,844	15,175	2,614	508	108	36	5	1	1	1	27
25-29	27,810	724	11,108	12,542	2,603	641	127	21	10	1	0	33
30-34	14,913	142	2,394	6,135	4,411	1,365	347	91	17	3	0	8
35-39	7,939	41	570	2,015	2,633	1,854	612	171	25	2	0	16
40-44	4,780	15	188	705	1,139	1,270	1,007	355	90	5	0	6
45-49	2,876	7	52	223	479	671	735	512	184	7	0	6
50-59	2,879	3	21	85	195	389	597	701	746	126	8	8
60-69	1,553	1	5	13	33	52	122	202	575	481	68	1
70+	775	0	1	3	4	12	12	23	106	294	317	3
UNKNOWN	117	8	26	22	10	13	3	1	6	8	11	9

TABLE E-8
ALL MARRIAGES BY RESIDENCE OF BRIDE AND GROOM,
NUMBER AND PERCENT: PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

RESIDENCE	BRIDE NUMBER	BRIDE PERCENT	GROOM NUMBER	GROOM PERCENT
ALL AREAS	87,963*	100.0	87,963**	100.0
PENNSYLVANIA	81,516	92.7	78,389	89.1
ALL OTHER STATES	6,375	7.2	9,471	10.8
TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS	1	0.0	7	0.0
FOREIGN COUNTRIES	60	0.1	88	0.1

* TOTAL INCLUDES ELEVEN BRIDES WHOSE RESIDENCES WERE NOT INDICATED.
**TOTAL INCLUDES EIGHT GROOMS WHOSE RESIDENCES WERE NOT INDICATED.

TABLE E-9
ALL MARRIAGES BY MONTH, NUMBER AND PERCENT:
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

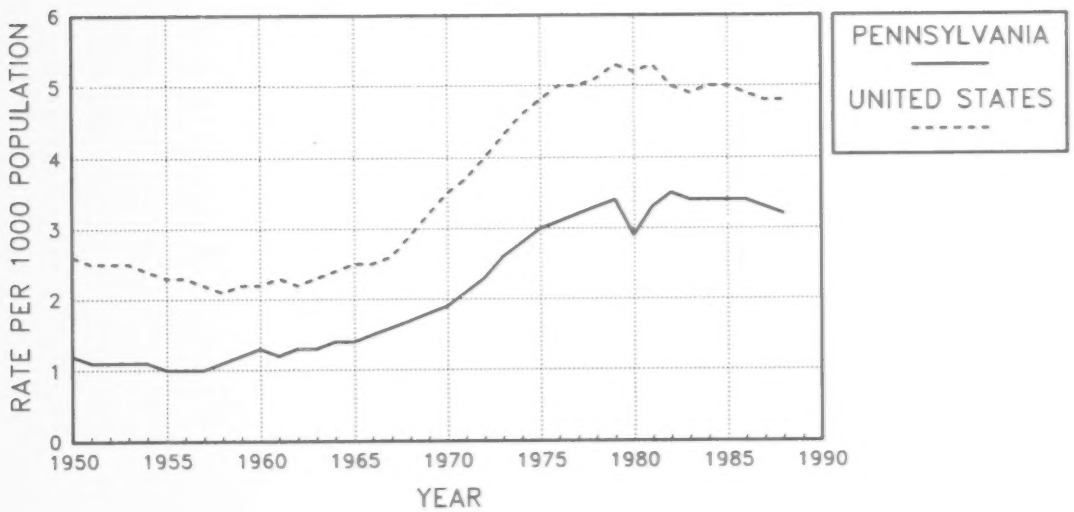
MONTH OF MARRIAGE	NUMBER	PERCENT
ALL MONTHS	87,963	100.0
JANUARY	2,899	3.3
FEBRUARY	3,926	4.5
MARCH	4,164	4.7
APRIL	7,283	8.3
MAY	10,031	11.4
JUNE	10,492	11.9
JULY	8,23[illegible]	9.4
AUGUST	8,703	9.9
SEPTEMBER	10,128	11.5
OCTOBER	10,825	12.3
NOVEMBER	6,493	7.4
DECEMBER	4,788	5.4

TABLE E-10
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS, NUMBER AND RATE*:
PENNSYLVANIA AND UNITED STATES OCCURRENCES, 1950-1988

YEAR	PENNSYLVANIA NUMBER	PENNSYLVANIA RATE	UNITED STATES NUMBER	UNITED STATES RATE	YEAR	PENNSYLVANIA NUMBER	PENNSYLVANIA RATE	UNITED STATES NUMBER	UNITED STATES RATE
1988	39,001	3.2	1,183,000**	4.8	1968	20,326	1.7	584,000	2.9
1987	38,837	3.3	1,157,000**	4.8	1967	18,668	1.6	523,000	2.6
1986	39,875	3.4	1,178,000	4.9	1966	16,940	1.5	499,000	2.5
1985	40,153	3.4	1,190,000	5.0	1965	16,578	1.4	479,000	2.5
1984	40,375	3.4	1,169,000	5.0	1964	16,139	1.4	450,000	2.4
1983	40,150	3.4	1,158,000	4.9	1963	14,789	1.3	428,000	2.3
1982	41,280	3.5	1,170,000	5.0	1962	14,316	1.3	413,000	2.2
1981	38,842	3.3	1,213,000	5.3	1961	13,606	1.2	414,000	2.3
1980	34,922	2.9	1,189,000	5.2	1960	14,429	1.3	393,000	2.2
1979	39,808	3.4	1,181,000	5.3	1959	13,891	1.2	395,000	2.2
1978	38,261	3.3	1,130,000	5.1	1958	12,243	1.1	368,000	2.1
1977	37,868	3.2	1,091,000	5.0	1957	11,651	1.0	381,000	2.2
1976	36,531	3.1	1,083,000	5.0	1956	11,480	1.0	382,000	2.3
1975	34,955	3.0	1,036,000	4.8	1955	11,103	1.0	377,000	2.3
1974	32,899	2.8	977,000	4.6	1954	11,711	1.1	379,000	2.4
1973	31,005	2.6	915,000	4.3	1953	12,121	1.1	390,000	2.5
1972	27,501	2.3	845,000	4.0	1952	11,905	1.1	392,000	2.5
1971	25,110	2.1	773,000	3.7	1951	11,743	1.1	381,000	2.5
1970	22,622	1.9	708,000	3.5	1950	12,096	1.2	385,144	2.6
1969	21,580	1.8	639,000	3.2					

* RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.
**PROVISIONAL DATA.

FIGURE E-3
DIVORCE RATES
PENNSYLVANIA AND UNITED STATES, 1950-1988



NOTE: ANNULMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN DIVORCE RATES.

TABLE E-11
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE,
NUMBER AND PERCENT: PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (IN YEARS)	NUMBER	PERCENT	DURATION OF MARRIAGE (IN YEARS)	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL	39,001	100.0			
UNDER 1	131	0.3	13	1,180	3.0
			14	1,124	2.9
1	1,101	2.8	15	1,057	2.7
2	2,116	5.4	16	1,020	2.6
3	2,634	6.8			
4	2,738	7.0	17	959	2.5
			18	877	2.2
5	2,756	7.1	19	863	2.2
6	2,606	6.7	20-24	3,144	8.1
7	2,311	5.9			
8	2,131	5.5	25-29	1,715	4.4
			30-34	939	2.4
9	1,916	4.9	35-39	485	1.2
10	1,606	4.1	OVER 39	357	0.9
11	1,475	3.8			
12	1,310	3.4	NOT STATED	450	1.2

FIGURE E-4
DIVORCES AND ANNULMENTS, PERCENT BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE
PENNSYLVANIA OCCURRENCES, 1988

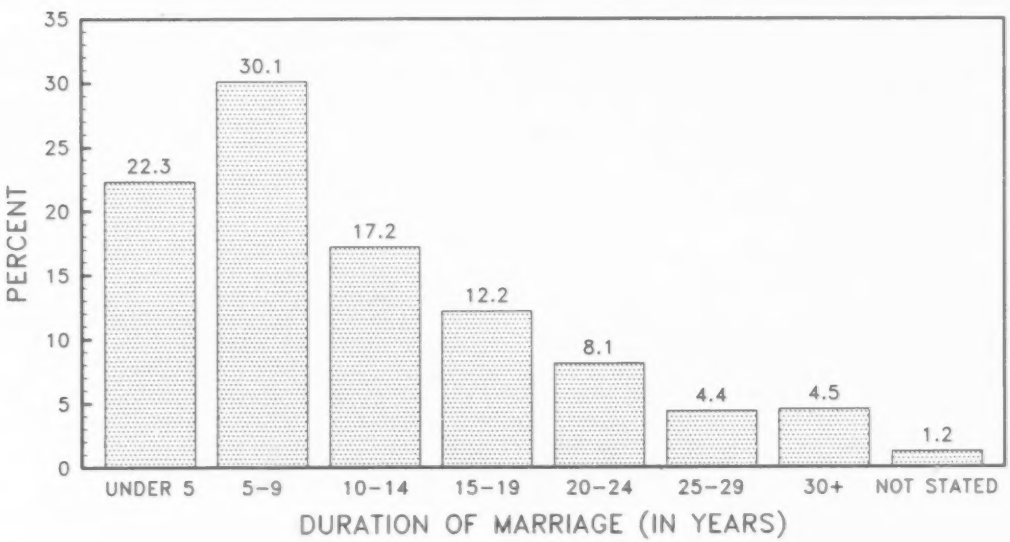


TABLE E-12
MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES BY COUNTY OF OCCURRENCE
NUMBER AND RATE*: PENNSYLVANIA, 1988

COUNTY	MARRIAGES		DIVORCES	
	NUMBER**	RATE	NUMBER***	RATE
ALL COUNTIES	87,963	7.3	39,001	3.2
ADAMS	505	6.8	299	4.0
ALLEGHENY	9,731	7.2	3,840	2.8
ARMSTRONG	602	7.7	205	2.6
BEAVER	1,045	5.5	606	3.2
BEDFORD	371	7.7	156	3.2
BERKS	2,429	7.4	1,069	3.2
BLAIR	985	7.4	501	3.8
BRADFORD	504	7.8	260	4.0
BUCKS	4,270	7.9	1,106	2.0
BUTLER	1,062	6.9	497	3.2
CAMBRIA	1,166	6.9	392	2.3
CAMERON	51	8.0	2,565	400.8
CARBON	407	7.3	170	3.0
CENTRE	915	7.9	362	3.1
CHESTER	2,337	6.4	1,104	3.0
CLARION	376	9.0	92	2.2
CLEARFIELD	603	7.4	295	3.6
CLINTON	269	7.1	143	3.8
COLUMBIA	553	9.1	219	3.6
CRAWFORD	677	7.9	341	4.0
CUMBERLAND	1,519	7.8	720	3.7
DAUPHIN	1,938	8.0	835	3.5
DELAWARE	4,861	8.7	1,395	2.5
ELK	276	7.5	97	2.6
ERIE	2,203	8.0	1,023	3.7
FAYETTE	1,080	7.1	548	3.6
FOREST	54	11.5	7	1.5
FRANKLIN	717	6.0	472	3.9
FULTON	86	6.0	44	3.1
GREENE	274	6.9	161	4.1
HUNTINGDON	341	7.9	122	2.8
INDIANA	627	6.8	219	2.4
JEFFERSON	413	8.7	183	3.8
JUNIATA	147	7.2	55	2.7
LACKAWANNA	1,608	7.2	674	3.0
LANCASTER	3,367	8.1	1,359	3.3
LAWRENCE	991	9.8	316	3.1
LEBANON	908	7.9	429	3.8
LEHIGH	2,141	7.4	959	3.3
LUZERNE	2,247	6.8	881	2.7
LYCOMING	1,047	8.9	503	4.3
MCKEAN	345	7.5	147	3.2
MERCER	1,039	8.5	416	3.4
MIFFLIN	360	7.7	145	3.1
MONROE	830	8.9	278	3.0
MONTGOMERY	5,666	8.2	1,712	2.5
MONTOUR	125	7.6	60	3.6
NORTHAMPTON	1,906	7.8	771	3.2
NORTHUMBERLAND	611	6.2	358	3.6
PERRY	306	7.5	161	3.9
PHILADELPHIA	9,774	5.9	4,751	2.9
PIKE	177	6.6	90	3.4
POTTER	126	7.0	71	3.9
SCHUYLKILL	1,090	7.1	429	2.8
SNYDER	302	8.3	102	2.8
SOMERSET	534	6.6	211	2.6
SULLIVAN	72	11.2	18	2.8
SUSQUEHANNA	341	8.3	134	3.3
TIOGA	306	7.6	160	4.0
UNION	296	8.5	138	4.0
VENANGO	528	8.7	203	3.3
WARREN	385	8.4	60	1.3
WASHINGTON	1,395	6.7	678	3.2
WAYNE	384	9.5	114	2.8
WESTMORELAND	2,628	6.9	1,085	2.9
WYOMING	199	7.0	111	3.9
YORK	2,483	7.4	1,370	4.1

* RATE PER 1,000 ESTIMATED 1988 POPULATION FOR EACH SPECIFIED COUNTY.
** TOTAL MARRIAGES INCLUDE 52 UNKNOWN COUNTY OF OCCURRENCE.
***TOTAL DIVORCES INCLUDE 4 UNKNOWN COUNTY OF OCCURRENCE.